

Undercover police raid suspected drug packaging house in Westland

BY JONI HUBERD
STAFF WRITER
jhuberd@ecce.net

An undercover investigation that led Farmington Hills Police to a drug packaging operation has resulted in the arrest of a 41-year-old Westland resident.

South Oakland Narcotics Investigation Consortium officers from Farmington Hills, Novi and West Bloomfield raided the Westland home of Sami Nader Farhat on Feb. 18, based on a warrant issued by a 47th District Court magistrate.

"This location was raided

because it was a packaging house for marijuana and cocaine that was supplying Farmington Hills and Novi," said Hills Chief Bill Dwyer.

According to a police report, no one answered the door at 7400 Floral when SONIC officers knocked and announced their presence. They forced the door open and found Farhat in the front room, alone. He was arrested without incident.

K-9 Officer Randy Mince's search turned up drugs in two bedrooms and the kitchen. In addition to three revolvers and a

semi-automatic handgun, \$11,200 in cash, packaging materials, scales and drug paraphernalia, officers found 62.5 grams of cocaine and around four kilograms of marijuana.

In addition, police confiscated a 1990 Mercury Sable and a 1988 Merkur Scorpio.

According to an incident report filed by Detective Victor Lancia, Farhat, waived his Miranda rights and agreed to speak with officers without a lawyer during an interview at the Hills police station. He told officers most of the marijuana belonged to his

cousin.

Farhat was arraigned via videotape on Feb. 21 on three counts: delivery of over 50 grams of cocaine, delivery of over 50 grams of marijuana and felony firearms possession. Bond was set at \$50,000 cash or surety. A plea of not-guilty was entered for Farhat and a lawyer was appointed for him.

The arraignment had to be via videotape because the local court was closed and the arraignment was handled in the court in Romulus.

Kroger plans fund-raiser at its three Farmington area stores

The Kroger Company of Michigan is currently sponsoring a fund raiser at 12 of its Oakland County stores for the Michigan-based JARC organization. Customers participating in the "Give a George to JARC" campaign can purchase one-dollar paper "Georges" (i.e. George Washing-

ton) from the cashiers as they proceed through the checkouts.

Last year Kroger donated nearly \$7,000 to JARC through a fundraiser at the new Orchard Lake store. This year's program has been expanded to include 12 Kroger stores.

JARC (Jewish Association for

Residential Care) is a Michigan non-profit, non-sectarian charitable organization operating 18 homes and four independent living programs for adults with developmental disabilities, as well as support programs for families with a child with any disability.

The following Farmington/Farmington Hills Krogers stores will be participating through March 4:

4395 Orchard Lake Road, Orchard Lake; 25780 Middlebelt, Farmington; and 37550 W. 12 Mile Road.

Suspicious backpack found in school locker

BY STACY JUNG
STAFF WRITER
sjung@ecce.net

Suspicious items found in a White Lake Township home on Friday led police to a backpack containing a five-inch fuse cord at Walled Lake Central High School on Monday.

The 1,600-student high school was not evacuated because the backpack was removed from the building late in the school day by a police officer, said Lois Lange, district spokeswoman.

"It happened just a few minutes before dismissal time. The danger, if there was any, had been removed from the building."

Lois Lange
—Walled Lake spokeswoman

"It happened just a few minutes before dismissal time," Lange said. "The danger, if there was any, had been removed from the building."

The backpack was found in the locker of a 16-year-old boy, who was missing from his guardian's home all weekend, said Lt. Edward Harris of the White Lake Township Police Department.

Harris said his department received a call on possible narcotics paraphernalia in the home. The guardian showed a police officer the paraphernalia and a tool box, filled with various household items. Harris said a pipe was found at the home and the residue inside the pipe is being analyzed.

The officer suspected the household items could be used to make a bottle bomb, said Harris, so he contacted the Michigan State Police Bomb Squad for advice. Harris said bomb experts said the items were not explosive. The officer seized the tool box and the pipe.

The department issued a runaway bulletin for the youth. The high school's police liaison officer, Deputy Tim

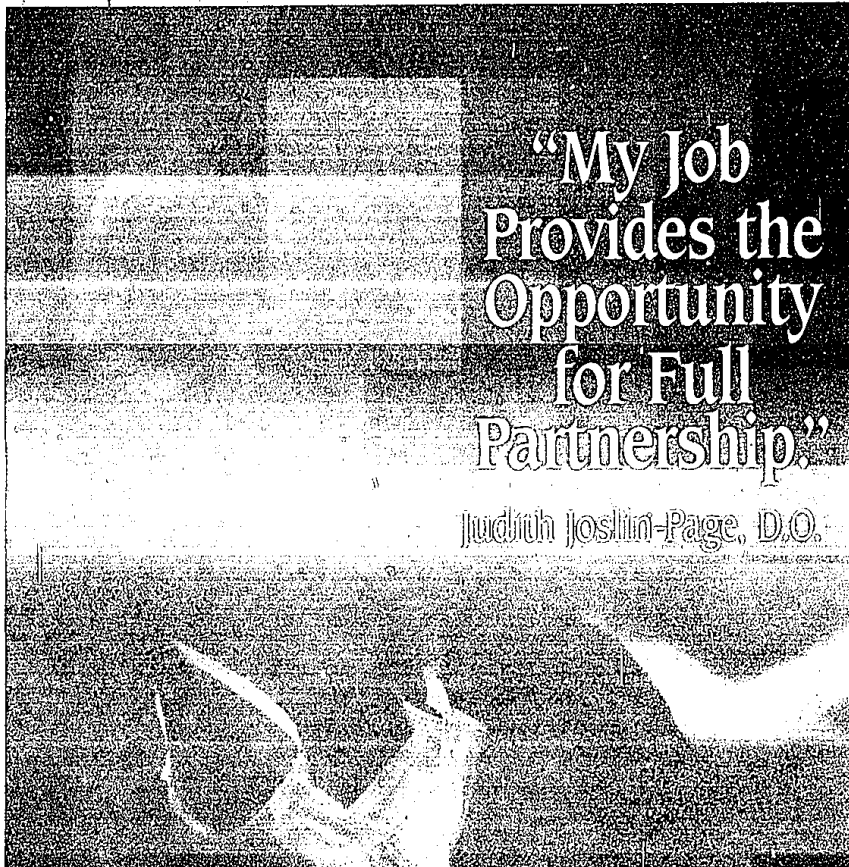
Hein, from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, thought the boy was in school on Monday morning and searched the boy's locker after receiving a call from White Lake Township Police Department, Harris said. He found the backpack containing fuse cord and took the backpack out of the locker and out of the school, said Harris.

The backpack was destroyed by the Michigan State Police, as standard operating procedure, said Walled Lake Central High School Principal David Barry, in a written statement to parents on Tuesday.

The state police conducted a canine sweep of the building, as a further precaution, and no explosives or suspected related materials were found, Barry said.

Harris said the missing boy was found at a friend's house Monday night. The case is in the hands of the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

"They will determine if any crime was committed," Harris said, adding that the youth could face a penalty if he is cited for drug paraphernalia possession under a local ordinance.



"My Job Provides the Opportunity for Full Partnership."

Judith Joslin-Page, D.O.

I've been practicing OB/GYN for over 12 years. And from the beginning, it's been one of my highest priorities to approach patients as their doctor, and as their friend. This enables me to become a partner in their care through every stage of life... prenatal, pregnancy, postpartum, menopause, and for any other needs that may arise. Partnering helps establish a common bond between doctor and patient. It aids patients in feeling secure about expressing their problems. And it's important to me in helping to provide proper medical care. You see, at Botsford, we're proud to provide you with the opportunity to relate to a person who's both a doctor and a special partner, all in one.



Botsford

Putting A Face On Health Care.

28050 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48336-5933

Family Fest seeks artists

The newly renamed Farmington Area Family Fest (formerly the Founders Festival) is seeking artists and fine craftspeople for the new Fine Arts area of the festival. The application deadline is March 31.

Entries will be juried; the cost of the show is \$150 for all three days of the festival. The fee covers a 10' X 10' space, and artists must supply their own shelter. To request an application, artists

JURIED

may call (248) 473-1858.

The festival, in its 36th year, will be held June 22-24 in downtown Farmington. In addition to the new Fine Arts area, the event features a parade, live entertainment, family activities and games and rides.

HOW TO REACH US

Circulation Nightline	734-953-2008
Classified Advertising	734-591-0900
Display Advertising	734-591-2300
Home Delivery	734-591-0500
Newsroom FAX	734-591-7279
Newsroom	734-593-2104
O&E Online	www.observer-eccentric.com
Photo Reprints	734-591-0500
Reader Comment Line	734-953-2040
Sports Nightline	734-953-2104

* OnLine -- www.observer-eccentric.com -- can be accessed with just about any communications software: PC or Macintosh. You are able to send and receive unlimited e-mail, access all features of the Internet, read electronic editions of The Farmington Observer and other Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and chat with users across town or across the country.

**Photo orders must be for pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers. Please provide publication date, page number and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past six months. Prints are \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print. Payment is in advance (check or credit card).

The Farmington Observer

A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication
33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48336
(On the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Rd.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

CARRIER DELIVERY	MAIL DELIVERY
One year.....\$47.40	One year.....\$55.00
One year (Sr. Citizen).....\$38.00	One year (Sr. Citizen).....\$45.00
Newstand.....75¢ per copy	One year (out of State).....\$90.00

Advertisements published in the Farmington Observer are subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department. The Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, Michigan 48336, (248) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order if an advertisement appears to be in violation of the law or if the advertiser's order is in violation of an advertisement that constitutes that acceptance of the advertised order.